

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Verga on 9-11-2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 20:

At line 12, before "said external microphone";
"electrically connects said speech processor module to" has been deleted,
--enables electrical connection between said speech processor and-- has been inserted.

At line 18, after "said",

"stand alone" has been deleted,
--body worn-- has been inserted.

In claim 30:

At line 1, after "implant", --system-- has been inserted.

Before line 2, -- an external component comprising -- has been inserted.

At line 11, before "said external microphone";

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"electrically connects said speech processor module to" has been deleted,

--enables electrical connection between said speech processor and-- has been inserted.

At line 17, after "said",

"stand alone mode of operation." has been deleted,

--body worn mode of operation, -- has been inserted.

After line 17,

--an implantable internal component that receives signals from the external component and provides stimulation. -- has been inserted.

In claims 31, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, at line 1 of each of the claims, after "implant", --system-- has been inserted.

In claims 52-56, at line 1 of each of the claims;

"external component" has been deleted,

--implant system-- has been inserted.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark W. Bockelman whose telephone number is (571) 272-4941. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Layno can be reached on (571) 272 -4949. The fax

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phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mark W Bockelman/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3766
September 11, 2009